

ESTATE OF RICHARD LAWSON.

JUNE 23, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McEWAN, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1194.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1194) for the relief of the estate of Richard Lawson, having considered the same, report as follows:

A bill identical with the accompanying bill was favorably reported by your committee and passed the Senate during the second session of the Fifty-fourth Congress.

The facts in this case are fully set forth in House Report No. 1582, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session, which your committee adopt as their report, and recommend the passage of the bill.

The report referred to is as follows:

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred House bill 3754, make the following report:

Richard Lawson was a member of the firms of William McFadon & Co. and John McFadon & Co., said firms doing business in Baltimore, Md., prior to the year 1800. In the prosecution of their business they had various vessels on the high seas in which they were interested (in the ship or cargo) either as owners, part owners, or as underwriters. About this time war was in progress between England and France, and American commerce suffered greatly because of depredations by the French.

The firms named were among the sufferers, and under the act of January 20, 1885 filed their claims with the United States Court of Claims. The members of said firms were William McFadon, John McFadon, and Richard Lawson, the interest of Lawson being one-fourth in the firm of William McFadon & Co. and one-half in the firm of John McFadon & Co. John McFadon being the survivor of said parties, suit was brought in his name, but it was subsequently found that in 1839 he, the said John McFadon, had assigned his interest in these cases to the United States in payment of an indebtedness due from him individually to the Government, and therefore any claim brought in his name was barred.

As said indebtedness was an individual one, and with which said firms had no concern, said assignment being, also, merely a transfer of John McFadon's interest, it would be an injustice to deprive the other members of said firms of their interest in the cases.

This bill merely authorizes the estate of Richard Lawson to sue for his individual interest (as a partner) in the claims in the Court of Claims. Your committee therefore recommend that it do pass.

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